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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/826,571	04/05/2001	Anthony Bakker	PHA80.003	3526

7590

04/24/2002

Attention: Brian J. Wieghaus
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EXAMINER

CHOE, HENRY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2817

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/826,571

Applicant(s)
Bakker

Examiner
Henry Choe

Art Unit
2817



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 18, 2002
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7 and 12-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 3 of claim 8, should "amplifier" be --amplifying--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simoes (Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 1, Simoes (Fig. 1) discloses an offset correction circuit comprising an amplifier (10) which produces a DC offset and noise having an input (non-inverting input of 10) for receiving an input signal (a signal coming into the input terminal of the circuit INPUT) from an input of the circuit (INPUT) and an output (OUTPUT) for delivering an output signal (a signal going out of the output terminal of the circuit OUTPUT) to an output of the circuit (OUTPUT), means (T1) for reducing the DC-offset and the noise produced by the amplifier (10), and feedback means (T3, R1) for further reducing the DC-offset produced by the amplifier (10).

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Regarding claims 2 and 10, the means (T1) for reducing the DC-offset and the noise produced by the amplifier (10) includes an input chopper arranged in cascade in between the input (INPUT) of the circuit and the input (non-inverting input of 10) of the amplifier (10), an output chopper (T7) which is synchronized with the input chopper [(T1) It should be noted that the both input chopper T1 and output chopper T7 are controlled by the clock phase 2], and output chopper (T7) which is arranged in cascade in between the output (output of 10) of the amplifier (10) and the output (OUTPUT) of the circuit.

Regarding claim 8, Simoes (Fig. 1) discloses an offset correction circuit comprising means (10) for amplifying an input signal (a signal coming into the input terminal of the circuit INPUT) and producing a DC-offset and noise and for delivering an output signal (a signal going out of the output terminal of the circuit OUTPUT) to an output (OUTPUT) of the circuit, means (T1 and T7) which is responsive to the amplifying means (10) for reducing the DC-offset and the noise produced by the amplifier (10) and feedback means (T3, R1) which further reduces the DC-offset produced by the amplifier (10).

Regarding claim 9, Simoes (Fig. 1) discloses an offset correction circuit comprising an amplifier (10) which is adapted to amplify an input signal (a signal coming into the input terminal of the circuit INPUT) and produce a DC-offset and noise and to deliver an output signal (a signal going out of the output terminal of the circuit OUTPUT) to an output (OUTPUT) of the circuit, a circuit (T1 and T7) which is adapted to respond to the amplifier (10) by reducing the

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DC-offset and the noise produced by the amplifier (10), and a feedback circuit (T3, R1) which is adapted to further reduce the DC-offset produced by the amplifier (10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simoes (Fig. 1).

Simoes (Fig. 1) discloses all the limitations in the claims except for that the input chopper and the output chopper are operative as high frequency choppers. While Simoes does not specify a clock frequency, it would have been obvious to have set the both choppers to such high frequencies in order to avoid switching noise in the output signal. Also, notes lines 13-15 of column 3 of Simoes.

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Reasons for Allowance

6. Claims 4-7 and 12-14 are allowed.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 4, 6 and 12, the closest prior art of record, Simoes (Fig. 1) does not disclose the following limitation: switching means for short-circuiting the input signal under control of a start-up signal.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Patent numbers (4,210,872; 4,714,843; 5,736,895) are the switching amplifiers.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henry Choe whose telephone number is (703) 305-0576.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Choe' in a cursive style.

Name : Henry Choe

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#502

April 22, 2002